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## Inside

- Letters to the editor 2
- New software tracks  
gov't card purchases 3
- Wanted: More linguists 4
- Coalition strikes back 4

## NEWSBYTES

### Reserve aircrews back

Command officials announced June 21 the initial return of reservists called to active duty to support NATO efforts in the Balkans. About 15 reservists from the 434<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing returned to Grissom Air Reserve Base, Ind., June 19. About 50 more from the 931<sup>st</sup> ARB, McConnell Air Force Base, Kan., arrived June 21 after a seven-week deployment to Moron Air Base, Spain.

### Chief praises forces

Mobilized reservists deployed overseas might soon come home, but others may be asked to perform different tasks as the Air Force begins shifting gears with the end of Balkan air hostilities. In a message to major command commanders June 17, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael E. Ryan congratulated the men and women involved in and supporting Balkan operations on a job well done. He emphasized that forces will redeploy only after the region has been stabilized by ground troops.

### Use-or-lose reminder

Air Force officials remind airmen that accrued leave in excess of 60 days is lost at the end of each fiscal year, unless special leave accrual applies. Leave restored under special leave accrual must be used within three years. Airmen who received SLA for fiscal year 1996 must use or lose the restored leave by Sept. 30, 1999. Military personnel flights have more information.

### Runway reopens

After nearly seven weeks, a \$3 million runway renovation at Osan Air Base, Korea, is complete and aircraft are once again flying in and out of the base. Although the runway closed to aircraft operations May 6, rotary wing assets like the 33rd Rescue Squadron and 31st Special Operations Squadron continued to fly from Osan.

## Phased termination of Stop-Loss begins

**WASHINGTON** – Two days after NATO Secretary General Javier Solana's proclamation June 20 that Operation Allied Force was officially over, the Air Force started a phased termination of its Stop-Loss program that had kept airmen in fields critical to the allied effort from leaving the service during the air campaign over Yugoslavia.

In its announcement June 22, the Air Force did not completely eliminate Stop-Loss, stating that both the service and people affected by the halt in separations need flexibility to transition to prewar operations. Stop-Loss took effect June 15.

"With the end of hostilities, withdrawal of Yugoslav troops from Kosovo and the redeployment of our forces home, it is appropriate to be-

**continued on Page 3**



photo by Staff Sgt. Randy Mallard

*Bombers deployed for the Kosovo crisis are scheduled to begin heading home today. Since March 24, B-52s and B-1s deployed to RAF Fairford, England, flew more than 270 combat sorties, releasing more than 11,000 weapons in more than 2,000 flight hours.*

## U.S. aircraft to redeploy

**WASHINGTON (AFPN)** – More than 300 U.S. aircraft will return to their home bases in the United States and Europe after the successful completion of Operation Allied Force.

Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen announced the first two increments of the redeployment June 21. The first increment of 124 aircraft will commence redeploying immediately and take place over the next two weeks.

Aircraft scheduled to redeploy from bases in Europe to CONUS include:

■ 12 F-117s from Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, to Holloman Air Force Base, N.M.;

■ Two EC-130E's from Aviano AB, Italy, to Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.;

■ Seven EA-6B's from Aviano to NAS Whidbey Island, Wash. (four), and to MCAS Cherry Point, N.C. (three);

■ 12 F-16CJs from Bandirma AB, Turkey, to Shaw AFB, S.C.

■ One P-3C from NAS Sigonella, Italy, to NAS Brunswick, Maine;

■ 11 B-52H's RAF Fairford, England, to Barksdale AFB, La.; and

■ Six B-1s from Fairford to Ellsworth AFB, S.D.

Aircraft scheduled to redeploy from bases in Europe to their home stations in Europe

**continued on Page 3**



## Letters to the editor

U.S. Air Force Online News publishes letters based on their appeal to an Air Force-wide audience each week. Send your letter to the U.S. Air Force Online News staff by completing the online form at <http://www.af.mil/newspaper/>

Due to the number of letters, not all letters can be published. Letters may be edited for grammar and length. Only letters accompanied by a valid name and email address will be considered.

## NATO bombings in Kosovo

[Editor's note: The following letter was sent to the Air Force Link Home Page.]

My husband is from Kosovo. The two of us live in Liechtenstein, but all of his family lives in Kosovo.

When the Serb military came to their village, they fled into the forest where they stayed for a couple of weeks. Then they moved on to a neighboring village, into an uncle's house. There they felt safe for a while. But then, one day, Serbish tanks showed up ... that night, NATO bombs fell very close, and the next morning the tanks were gone. Nobody had harmed them. Four days ago they could return to their own house.

All are safe and well. ... Words can not really express how much we want to thank you. But we will never forget what you did that night and all the other nights, too.

**Dagmar Pacolli**  
Liechtenstein

## The naked truth

There is a difference between whining [about Stop-Loss] and voicing a legitimate complaint. ...I defy anyone to tell me I haven't done my part. ...I am an unapologetic patriot and proud of my service. ...If a minor engagement such as the Kosovo operation can require this type of action, do you really think we have resources to fight and win two major regional conflicts? ...maybe it's time somebody stood up and told the truth about the emperor's wardrobe.

**James M. DeWitt**  
Charleston AFB, S.C.

## Uphold the contract

... Stop-Loss bothers me — not because I don't want to serve my country...but because I chose to take part in an offer by my government in which I committed to an amount of time to serve, and they accepted. ...they should hold up their end of the contract. ...I held up my end... Don't knock those of us who feel Stop-Loss is wrong, as we have good reason to feel this way.

**Staff Sgt. Mark Woods**  
179th Airlift Wing, Mansfield, Ohio

# Creating a world-class military headquarters

By Jake Henry



21<sup>st</sup> century expeditionary aerospace force deserves a world-class headquarters.

As the head of the Headquarters Air Force 2002 project, I have been charged by the Air Force acting secretary and chief of staff to "create a world-class military headquarters that is effective, efficient and a great place to work." And that, in a nutshell, is HAF 2002's vision.

HAF 2002 began its journey in mid-April to streamline the headquarters Air Force processes, cut costs and improve the quality of its work.

That means eliminating work that offers little or no value to the HAF mission in providing plans, policies and resources to the Air Force. It means realigning non-HAF work and turning to competitive sourcing and privatization when it makes sense.

HAF 2002 brought together the most creative military, civilian and contractor minds available and assembled them into 10 teams.

Three process design teams — administrative support services, informa-

tion technology support services and operational requirements — launched immediate attacks on their processes.

Seven process recce teams are gathering diagnostic data in areas such as legislative affairs, operations support, office of the secretary of the Air Force/Air Staff review, Air National Guard/Reserve review, corporate structure and process change management in preparation for the next offensive. The longer-term efforts process recce team is continually scanning the horizon for new opportunities.

The review coordinating group supports the teams by providing insights and assisting in the refinement of issues. The executive steering group reviews and validates the teams' recommendations, while championing and endorsing the overall effort.

While the HAF is less than one-third its Cold War size, it remains the largest military headquarters among all the services. "Salami-slice" responses to mandated reductions result in fewer people doing more work.

The HAF is now functioning on little more than the enormous willpower of our people. That will is what gives the United

States a decisive edge in battle, and it should be reserved for those challenges. It should not be demanded in the daily routine of business. The secretary and the chief are as adamant about giving our people their lives back as they are about revamping HAF operations.

HAF 2002 encourages everyone to embrace the vision of a world-class headquarters Air Force.

Each of us must be an "agent of positive change" to ensure its success. HAF 2002 will release headquarters people from outdated processes and allow them to concentrate their energies on providing decision makers faster, better and more relevant information from which to make decisions.

As a result, HAF will be better positioned in the 21<sup>st</sup> century to provide the right resources to the major commands, enabling them to focus more clearly on their critical missions. The end result will see more assets aligned to the warfighter.

To learn more about this project's activities and progress on the web, go to <http://www.haf2002.hq.af.mil>.

*Editor's note: Mr. Henry is the Air Force deputy administrative assistant to the secretary.*



# Government credit cards

## ■ New software helps commanders track cardholders VISA charges

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — In much the same way as the speed of electronic checking eliminated the practice of writing a “hot” check, the Electronic Account Government Ledger System, known as EAGLS, is predicted to stop the practice of using the government travel card for seemingly innocent, yet unofficial purchases.

Initiated by NationsBank for the government travel card program, EAGLS is an online, real-time Internet-capable, point-and-click software program that can provide commanders immediate access to individual accounts. It also allows them to track transactions on an almost daily basis.

This is light years ahead of the former paper-based system that provided a monthly printout of each cardholder’s activities, according to Michael Weber, program manager for the Air Force travel card program. “EAGLS can provide information on transactions less than 24 hours after a card is used,” he said.

According to Mr. Weber, eliminat-

ing abuse through better tracking is just one of the many ways EAGLS is going to help commanders, agency program coordinators and cardholders better manage the government travel card program.

The ability to perform immediate, online maintenance is another. “For example,” he said, “if a card holder’s ATM limit needs to be raised or lowered, the change will be effective overnight after the agency program coordinator types in the information.” In much the same way, the commander can also limit spending by card abusers and turn cards off and on electronically.

While EAGLS is currently only available to commanders and their agency program coordinators, Mr. Weber said it ultimately will be available to every cardholder.

This will give cardholders the convenience of accessing NationsBank newsletters, checking their balance and even printing out a copy of the monthly statement before it arrives in the mail.



photo by Senior Airman Jeff Fitch

*Senior Airman Jeff Holder positions a MK-82 gravity bomb onto a B-52 loader at Fairford Royal Air Base, England. The B-52s deployed from Barksdale and Minot Air Force Bases were ordered home.*

## U.S. aircraft to redeploy

continued from Page 1

include:

■ 26 F-15E’s from Aviano to RAF Lakenheath, England; and

■ 20 F-16CJs from Aviano to Spangdahlem.

In addition, Task Force Hawk forces without a follow-on mission to Kosovo and who are not participating in continuing support of refugees in Albania will return to home stations in Germany.

The redeployment of these aircraft will also allow the release of 27 KC-135 tanker-equivalent air refueling assets.

The planes have been directed to return so they will be available to meet NATO mission requirements or other U.S. national security requirements around the world. The repositioning of these assets will have no significant impact on U.S. ability to support NATO ground or air power requirements, according to Secretary Cohen.

A second increment of more than 243 continental United States-based aircraft will begin redeploying after the first increment has completed its redeployment.

The second increment is anticipated to include the following types and numbers of CONUS-based aircraft: 34 A-10s, 24 F-18D’s, 24 F-15C’s, 12 F-15E’s, 24 F-16CJs, 33 F-16CGs, 12 F-117s, 10 EA-6B’s, three AC-130U’s, two HC-130s, four MH-60G’s, four MH-53J’s, four MH-53M’s, three MC-130s, five E-3C’s, six EC-130(CC)s, three EC-130E’s, 31 C-130s, six HH-60G’s, one C-9 and a number of KC-135-equivalent aircraft still to be determined.

## Phased termination of Stop-Loss begins

continued from Page 1

gin releasing our people from Stop-Loss,” said Col. Lynn Pratt, chief of the Air Force’s Military Personnel Policy Division.

She added that “Stop Loss is terminated for everyone not deployed in support of Kosovo. For those deployed, Stop Loss terminates upon return to home station.”

The Air Force, she explained, could not end Stop-Loss outright and across the board because units deployed in support of Kosovo operations need time to return their people and equipment to home bases.

At the same time, the colonel added, people affected by Stop-Loss who plan to separate or retire must be afforded the same opportunity to take full advantage of the transition assistance available to all departing airmen.



photo by Technical Sgt. Blake R. Borsic

*The phased termination of Stop-Loss allows flexibility to transition to prewar operations.*





# Wanted: more linguists

By Staff Sgt. Michael Dorsey

**WASHINGTON** – Future deployments like Operation Allied Force could leave the Air Force tongue-tied unless the service trains more officers to speak foreign languages, according to the chief of officer linguists.

The shortage of people in the foreign area officer program becomes even more acute when allies try to hurdle language barriers during wartime operations. More than ever, said Lt. Col. Brian Vickers, chief of the Foreign Area Officer Proponent Office, the Air Force needs a “pool of officers with foreign language proficiency and international experience.

“With the stand up of the expeditionary aerospace force, and as we interface more with our allies,” he said, “we will have to operate more in military coalitions with foreign partners. Being language proficient improves our

international relations and makes us a better partner.”

He added that the Air Force needs “to identify a pool of people with language skills that we can tap into.”

Colonel Vickers said line officers who speak Korean, Chinese, Japanese, Russian, Arabic, African and Croatian/Serbian languages remain in high demand. He said the largest percentage of the foreign area officers selected as linguists speak Spanish because it is the single largest second language in the U.S. population.

To apply, candidates should submit a resume listing qualifications. Personnel records are also screened. For more information, call (703) 588-8349, or visit the FAO web site at [www.hq.af.mil/af/saf/ia/afao/fao](http://www.hq.af.mil/af/saf/ia/afao/fao).

*This article is available in its entirety online.*



photo by Senior Airman Gary Guese

An F-16 approaches the refueling boom of a KC-135 Stratotanker from the 336th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron during a mission enforcing the no-fly zone in northern Iraq.

## Coalition attacks in north and south

**WASHINGTON** – Coalition aircraft patrolling Iraq's northern and southern no-fly zones came under fire June 21 and 22, both times responding with precision-guided munitions to strike military targets.

Coalition and Iraqi forces have clashed more than 190 times since the end of Operation Desert Fox in December.

Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen said June 21 that conflicts between coalition and Iraqi will “go on as long as Saddam Hussein continues to try to violate the no-fly zones ... We will continue to contain him. He clearly understands that every time he illuminates one of our aircraft or fires at one of the aircraft there's going to be a significant response.”

Between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Iraqi time June 22, Operation Northern Watch aircraft were targeted by Iraqi radar and fired upon by Iraqi anti-aircraft artillery. Responding in self-defense, U.S. Air Force F-16C Fighting Falcons and F-15E Strike Eagles dropped GBU-10 and GBU-12 precision-guided munitions on an Iraqi military command-and-control site southwest of Mosul.

In all of these most recent clashes, there were no coalition aircraft damaged. Battle damage assessment is ongoing.

## EELV inches toward launch

by Senior Master Sgt. Andrew Stanley

**WASHINGTON** – As several investigations focus on just what went wrong in a string of recent space launches, the Air Force is forging ahead with development of the evolved expendable launch vehicle for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

“The EELV program is poised to provide more affordable and reliable access to space for the United States,” said Acting Air Force Secretary Whit Peters last fall. The plan is to eventually save as much as 50 percent over the cost of the “heritage” systems of Delta, Atlas and Titan rockets.

EELV development also represents a new approach to space launch funding. In essence, the Air Force is buying launch services not launch vehicles. Lockheed Martin and Boeing are each providing their own EELV versions to the Air Force, right down to different pad sites at each coast. Partnering with industry to develop the new launch capability satisfies government requirements, reduces space launch costs and greatly improves operability.

“EELV will provide cost savings of at least 25 percent initially and has the potential to reach up to 50 percent over the life of the program,” said Maj. Tom Steele, EELV command lead for Air Force Space Command.

*This article is available in its entirety online.*



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